

S-E-C-R-E-T

EGGA-1268

TO : Chief, EE

32W-5-29/2

INFO : COS, BOB, MOB(LD), FOB, FE

FROM : Chief of Base, Hamburg

13 April 1959

SUBJECT: Operational/CAHELM/LCHARVEST

NO INDEXING

Reported Plans to Remove Wolf Schenke from Leadership of
Deutsche China-Gesellschaft

ACTION REQUIRED: For your information.

REFERENCES: a. EGGA-1078, 23 October 1958
b. EGFA-25788, 25 March 1959
c. EGFA-25835, 30 March 1959

1. Over the past several months CAHELM has reported increasing unhappiness with Wolf SCHENKE's leadership in the Deutsche China-Gesellschaft. Some of Schenke's opponents are apparently unhappy with Schenke personally as well as his politics, while others approve of his political views but feel that Schenke's controversial political activities are harmful to the DCG. Emil HOFFMANN delivered a sharp attack on Schenke at the September 1958 meeting of the DCG, reported in Reference A, and others have criticized Schenke either at DCG meetings or privately. Fritz HANDGE and Edouard SOLICH could be expected to go along with, but not to lead, any move to depose Schenke. Claus RICKMERS, although he appears to be fairly close to Schenke in the DCG, allegedly remarked at one session of the executive committee that he personally admired Schenke but that Schenke's political activities were harmful to the DCG and a new chairman must be found; (this was told to CAHELM by Handge). Hermann SCHWANN and Schenke are not on good terms and CAHELM believes Schwann is probably intriguing against Schenke. According to FOB reports in Reference B and C, Gerhard FLATOW is also opposed to Schenke as well as Schwann and would like to depose them.

2. Werner Otto von HENTIG recently told [] that Schenke had agreed to step down from the DCG chairmanship and that the only stumbling-block remaining was the difficulty of finding a suitable replacement, i.e., someone of public stature who would be favorably received by German governmental and business circles. Von Hentig ruled himself out because of his known unpopularity with the Bonn Government. The only clue we have in recent CAHELM reporting to support von Hentig's statement is Schenke's increasing concentration on domestic political activities at the expense of the DCG. On the other hand, Schenke recently told CAHELM that he was dissatisfied with the way things were going in the DCG and that he was going to start moving his "own" people into the DCG.

3. It is our guess that the executive committee has, as indicated by von Hentig's statement to [] demanded that Schenke resign his position as chairman. Schenke probably gave a conciliatory, ambiguous reply while preparing for a stiff internal struggle. Schenke's term as chairman is not up until the summer of 1960 but there could be a move

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at the June 1959 plenary session to unseat him. This is necessarily speculation on our part. CARELM is not a member of the board of directors, is probably viewed as Schenke's "man" by the other DCG members, and would not be fully informed on developments within the executive committee.

[]

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